UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries Service
Office of Law Enforcement
Northeast Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Instructions for the Northeast Region
Effective – May 1, 2010

These user instructions supplement the VMS requirements provided in the Northeast Fisheries Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 648.9 and 648.10. Updates to these user instructions will be posted to our VMS web page at www.nero.noaa.gov (go to "Features" and "Fishing Industry Homepage", then "Northeast VMS Program"). Permit holder letters are often a source of clarifying VMS information and are available on the web site under "Features".

NERO Website home page:

Abbreviations. You may encounter the following abbreviations in these instructions or on your VMS unit declaration and forms screens:

AMS	Allocation Management System
BSA	Broad Stock Area
B-REG	B-Regular Day-at-Sea
B-RES	B-Reserve Day-at-Sea
CA-1	Closed Area I
CA-2	Closed Area II
DAS	Days-at-Sea
DASC	Days-at-Sea Code
DELMARVA	Delaware/Maryland/Virginia
GB	Georges Bank
GOM	Gulf of Maine
HC	Hudson Canyon
IVR	Interactive Voice Response system
LAGC	Limited Access General Category
MULTS	Multispecies
NFMA	Monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area
NGOM	Northern Gulf of Maine
NLCA	Nantucket Lightship Closed Area
RGA	Restricted Gear Area
RMA	Regulated Mesh Area
SAA	Scallop Access Area
SAP	Special Access Program
SFMA	Monkfish Southern Fishery Management Area
SNE	Southern New England
US/CAN	U.S./Canada Management Area

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE LEAVING PORT?

Required activity declaration before sailing. For every trip, you must declare your intent prior to leaving port by making an activity declaration through your VMS unit. To ensure that you selected and transmitted the correct VMS code prior to leaving port, you are strongly advised to await an acknowledgment from your VMS vendor before sailing. If you need assistance in making a declaration, call the Northeast VMS Team at **(978) 281-9213** during business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. Questions about fisheries regulations should be referred to the Sustainable Fisheries Division at **(978) 281-9315**.

Fishing Inside or both Inside/Outside of the VMS Demarcation Line on a Trip. For groundfish trips, or other trips that require a DAS, if you intend to fish completely inside the VMS demarcation line, or fish both inside and outside the demarcation line on the same trip, you must (1) declare the trip through the IVR Call-In system (**1-888-284-4904**) and (2) declare the activity code "DOF" (Declare Out of Fishery) on your VMS unit. This is necessary because VMS starts and ends trips as the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line and is not able to accurately calculate DAS charges in these situations.

Fishing on the same VMS Declaration Code that was Last Declared. In order to ease the financial, time and technical burdens associated with declaring the activity through the VMS unit on each trip, NMFS developed an alternative declaration method. The alternative method allows owner/operators to call the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Call-In System to declare their trip, only if the trip declaration will be identical to the last declaration successfully sent to NMFS.

Important: Do not confuse this alternative declaration method of 'confirming the use of a previous VMS code' with declaring a DAS trip through IVR. These are two separate, distinct options in the IVR call flow. Refer to the VMS web page or the Permit Holder Letter of September 20, 2007 on the NERO Web Site for details.

The owner/operator will need to have their vessel's permit number, IVR PIN and operator number when calling the IVR. The IVR system will report back to you the last VMS declaration that NMFS' monitoring system had received from your vessel. If the last trip declaration reported back to you does not describe the exact activity that you intend to make, you must declare a new activity code through your VMS unit.

Important:

It's your responsibility to periodically check your VMS message in-box for important messages from NMFS. These messages may pertain to all vessels or specifically to your vessel.

Your VMS unit is programmed such that VMS declarations may only be performed while the vessel is inside the VMS demarcation line. There are currently three exceptions while seaward of the VMS demarcation line. In accordance with current NE multispecies regulations, vessels may (1) 'flip' their DAS code from a 'B' DAS to 'A' DAS, or (2) declare a 'flex' trip out of the Eastern US/CAN area, or, (3) change their multispecies declaration to a monkfish DAS declaration if fishing entirely within the NFMA. These flip, flex and change terms are addressed later.

Making an activity declaration. From your VMS main menu, go to the appropriate activity screen on your VMS unit for the fishery that you intend to participate in. Carefully make your selections from the required lines and, where appropriate, optional lines and then send the message.

VMS Vendors. There are currently 3 approved vendors: Boatracs, SkyMate and GMPCS (for Thrane units). Each vendor maintains and makes available to its customers the latest NMFS-approved VMS software. It's important that your unit is running the current software (failure to install the required software may compromise your ability to send proper declarations or forms, and could lead to NMFS enforcement action). The procedure for making a declaration differs depending on which vendor's VMS unit that you have:

1. **Boatracs Users.** Be sure you are running Macros version 12 for Activity Reports and version 6 for Forms released April 30, 2010. Select 'View Status', then 'Create Message' and type in the appropriate 'macro' page number:

Intended Activity	Macro
Multispecies Declaration Pages 1, 2 & 3	19, 20 & 21
Scallop Declaration	22
Monkfish Declaration	23
Other Declarations (Surfclam/Ocean Quahog, Herring, Declare Out of Fisheries)	24

a. Use the 'down' arrow key to scroll up and down the macro page. Use the 'enter' key to scroll across a line. Place an 'X' in the appropriate blank in each line of the intended activity, and then hit the 'send' key.

b. The unit will ask you to confirm sending by hitting the 'Y' (for yes) key. The unit will then indicate that your declaration message has been queued for delivery.

c. Once sent, you will receive an acknowledgment (confirmation) e-mail (the 'Message Waiting' light will be illuminated in red). Use the 'Read Next' key to view your acknowledgment. Your declaration will either be 'accepted' or 'rejected'. If rejected, you must resend a valid declaration. Boatracs customer service is available 24-hours a day **(800-262-8722)** and may be contacted for questions or you may contact the VMS Team during business hours for assistance.

<u>Example: Boatracs Multispecies Declaration (Page 1) – Macro 19</u>

```
VESSEL ACTIVITY REPORT V12.0
NE - MULTISPECIES DECLARATION (PAGE 1)

_ ADD MONKFISH OPTION [NMS-MNK]
SELECTING ALLOWS A CHANGE AT SEA TO
MONKFISH DAS, ONLY IF FISHING WITHIN
NFMA. NOT VALID FOR B-DAS TRIPS.
NOTE: TO CHANGE AT SEA TO MONKFISH
DAS, YOU MUST REDECLARE TRIP FROM
MONKFISH SCREEN (SELECT NFMA AND SAME
GEAR/BSA/PROGRAM).

SELECT GEAR TYPE:
_ TRAWL           _ HOOK
_ DAY GILLNET     _ TRIP GILLNET

SELECT BROAD STOCK AREA (BSA):
NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY
_ BSA 1-GULF OF MAINE
_ BSA 2-INSHORE GEORGES BANK
_ BSA 3-OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK
_ BSA 4-SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

SELECT SECTOR OR COMMON POOL TRIP:
_ ALL TRIPS USING MULTS DAS
_ SECTOR TRIP NOT USING MULTS DAS
NOTE: ALL VESSELS MUST SELECT AN AREA
UNDER FISHERIES PROGRAM BELOW.

SELECT FISHERIES PROGRAM:
REGULAR ACCESS (A DAS) [NMS-MUL/MNK]
   _ OPEN ONLY
CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK [NMS-HGH/MNK]
   _ CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK SAP
     USING _ A DAS, _ B-REG, _ B-RES

ADD CONCURRENT SCALLOP DAS TRIP:
_ CHARGE SCALLOP DAS TO MULTS TRIP
NOTE: TRAWL ONLY. YOU MUST ALSO
DECLARE SCALLOP DAS TRIP USING IVR.
```

2. **SkyMate Users.** Be sure you are running software version 3.934 released on April 22, 2010 (version number is at the top left of your VMS software screen). Select 'NMFS-VMS', then 'Activity' and go to the appropriate activity page. If the NMFS-VMS icon is not viewable as an option, add the icon to your desktop by selecting: 'System', 'Set up', 'Northeast', then 'Save'.

Note: SkyMate software is available for download directly from their website at www.skymate.com.

a. Scroll to the intended selection and click on the square next to that selection. Selections available are indicated by the green vertical line to the left of the menu. Continue to click on the appropriate selections that describe your intended activity, and then click 'send' at the top of the screen.

b. The unit will indicate that: "Your request has been submitted for acknowledgment and that your computer and SkyMate VMS software must remain running in order to receive an acknowledgment". Additionally, the top of your screen will indicate that: "You have one request pending" (this means that you have sent a declaration and are awaiting acknowledgment).

c. Go to your 'Code Log' to view the declaration that you just sent (note that the acknowledgment column is initially blank). When SkyMate sends back the acknowledgment, the top of your screen will indicate that "You have one unread acknowledgment." The acknowledgment will show up in bold print within the acknowledgment column of your Code Log. In order to make future declarations, you must read each incoming acknowledgment by clicking on it. If you send a declaration in error, you can delete it by going to your Code Log and selecting 'Change Code' at the top of your screen, then following the simple instructions to redeclare your activity.

Example: SkyMate Monkfish Declaration (showing drop-down menus)

Declaration for Monkfish

Change your Activity Declaration:

SELECT GEAR TYPE:
☐ TRAWL
☐ HOOK
☐ DAY GILLNET

SELECT MANAGEMENT AREA:
☐ ENTIRE TRIP FISHED IN NFMA **[MNK-NMA]**
☐ ANY PART OF TRIP FISHED IN SFMA **[MNK-SMA]**

SELECT MULTS BROAD STOCK AREA (BSA):
NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
☐ MONK DAS-ONLY TRIP - NO BSA REQUIRED
☐ BSA 1-GULF OF MAINE
☐ BSA 2-INSHORE GEORGES BANK
☐ BSA 3-OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK
☐ BSA 4-SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

SELECT FISHERIES PROGRAM:
REGULAR ACCESS (OPEN AREA)
☐ USING MULTS A AND/OR MONK DAS

```
              ☐USING SCALLOP AND MONK DAS
      US/CANADA WEST (USING MULTS A AND MONK DAS)
            ☐AREA 4 ONLY
            ☐AREA 4 AND OPEN
      US/CANADA EAST (USING MULTS A AND MONK DAS)
              ☐AREA 1
              ☐AREA 2
              ☐AREA 3
              ☐AREA 5
              ☐AREA 6
              ☐AREA 7
              ☐AREA 8
        FLEX OPTION - ADD AREA TO YOUR EASTERN AREA TRIP:
              ☐FLEX WEST (ADD AREA 4 ONLY)
              ☐FLEX OPEN (ADD AREA 4 AND OPEN)
          NOTE: ONLY ONE FLEX PER TRIP IS ALLOWED
    OFFSHORE AREA ACCESS (PERMIT CAT F ONLY)
            ☐USING MULTS A AND/OR MONK DAS
            ☐USING SCALLOP AND MONK DAS
    CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK SAP
            ☐USING MULTS A AND MONK DAS
  ADD CONCURRENT SCALLOP DAS TRIP:
        ☐CHARGE SCALLOP DAS TO MONKFISH TRIP
    NOTE: TRAWL ONLY. YOU MUST ALSO DECLARE SCALLOP DAS
    TRIP USING IVR.
```

Example: SkyMate Other Declarations (showing drop-down menus)

```
              Declaration for Other

  Change your Activity Declaration:

    SURFCLAM OR OCEAN QUAHOG:
        ☐SURFCLAM ITQ TRIP [SCO-SFC]
        ☐OCEAN QUAHOG ITQ TRIP [SCO-OQU]
        ☐MAINE MAHOGANY QUAHOG TRIP [SCO-MMQ]

    HERRING:
        ☐HERRING [HER-HER]

    DECLARE OUT OF FISHERY:
        ☐DECLARE OUT OF LIMITED ACCESS SCALLOP, NE MULTISPECIES
        OR MONKFISH DAS, LAGC SCALLOP, HERRING, SURFCLAM/OCEAN
        QUAHOG OR SE REGION TRIP [DOF-DOF]
```

3. **Thrane & Thrane Users.** Be sure you are running Trip Declaration version 8.0 and Reports version 6.0 released on April 29, 2010. Select 'Forms', which will bring up the page entitled "Trip Declaration and Catch Reporting System". Click on the block entitled 'Trip Declaration', then click on the appropriate activity under the 'Type' block.

a. Thrane employs menu 'blocks' that open up available options under that block as selections are made. As you click on the appropriate block to make that selection, it will highlight in yellow. Continue to click on the appropriate selections as you work down through the blocks (activity, day type, fishing area, options, and gear type).

b. Once all appropriate selections have been made, click "Continue to Next Screen". A window will pop up listing the selections you made and, for some declarations, there will be additional selections required (for example, you will need to make broad stock area selections for groundfish or monkfish trips). Send your declaration by clicking on this block that reads "Send (activity code) Declaration."

c. Once sent, a 'Forms Submission Status' window will come up that states that the 'form is being prepared for transmission.'

d. When your declaration has been successfully sent, the Forms Submission Status window will state that "the form was delivered successfully". This is your acknowledgment that your declaration was received. The box in the top right corner of the screen will display your current declaration in green.

Example: Thrane Scallop Declaration

Trip Declaration and Catch Reporting System

| Trip Declaration [8.0] | Reports [6.0] |

Current Declaration is: 'SES-SCG-OPXXXX'.

To change Declaration, either use the mouse or the TAB and SPACE keys.

Type

| Multispecies | Monkfish - NFMA | Scallop |
| Mults+Monk Opt. | Monkfish - SFMA | Other |

Activity

| General Category Permit | Limited Access - Open |
| Research Set Aside Trip | Limited Access - Special Access |
| General Category Power Down |

Day/Trip Type

| None |

Fishing Area

Closed Area 1 SAA	Closed Area 2 SAA
Elephant Trunk SAA	Nantucket Lightship SAA
Open, Fed. Exemption Area	Northern Gulf of Maine
Delmarva SAA

Options

| N/A |

Gear Type

| N/A |

| Continue to Next Screen... |

Please Review & Confirm your Declaration:

Type:	Scallop
Activity:	General Category Permit
Day/Trip Type:	None
Fishing Area:	Elephant Trunk SAA
Options:	N/A
Gear Type:	N/A

| Send "SES-SCG-ETXXXX" Declaration | Cancel |

4. **Applicable to all VMS Users**:

a. **VMS Activity Codes**. Your declaration is reported to NMFS in a 12-character VMS activity code format. That activity code (with a brief description) is reported back to you in your acknowledgment message by your VMS vendor. That code is also reported back to you in the VMS Trip Start and Trip End messages sent as courtesy e-mails by NMFS (addressed below). A complete listing of all 2,707 VMS activity codes and their descriptions is available on the VMS web page.

b. **Acknowledgment**. An acknowledgment of your declaration is sent from your VMS vendor and not from NMFS; therefore, the acknowledgment does not mean that NMFS has approved your activity. The acknowledgment simply means that your activity code was received by the VMS vendor (specifically, the satellite provider's land-earth station) and will be sent along to NMFS. As mentioned earlier, it is strongly recommended that you wait for the acknowledgment from your vendor before sailing. Why? If you sail, and your declaration does not get delivered or the declaration reported back to you in your acknowledgment is incorrect for your intended activity, you will have to return the vessel to a port (it doesn't necessarily have to be your homeport) to resend your declaration. It is in your best interest that the correct activity declaration be made, sent, and acknowledged before sailing. Remember -- Your trip begins when you cross the VMS demarcation line under the last VMS code successfully sent and acknowledged.

Important: If you should start a trip under the wrong activity code, you must return to a port (not simply return inside the demarcation line) and send the correct activity declaration. Vessels determined by NMFS to be at sea under the wrong activity declaration may be directed back to port.

c. **Declaring a "FLEX" Trip**. A FLEX trip is so named to provide you with the 'flexibility" to fish for multispecies and/or monkfish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area and another area(s) on the same trip. A FLEX must be declared from either the: (1) dock/mooring prior to sailing, or (2) Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area. Only one FLEX declaration is allowed per fishing trip. A FLEX trip allows you to fish in both the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area and one of the following:

(1) Western U.S./Canada Management Area (called a "**FLEX WEST**");
(2) Western U.S./Canada Management Area and Regular Access Area ("**FLEX OPEN**");

Declaring a FLEX at the dock/mooring: To declare a multispecies and/or monkfish FLEX trip, select the gear type, select a BSA(s), select the management area (monkfish declarations only), select a sector or common pool trip, select the fisheries program, select U.S./Canada East, select an area (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 or 8 depending on the areas that are currently open), and, for Boatracs and SkyMate users, select one of the two FLEX options (under the header "FLEX Option - Add Area to your Eastern Area Trip)". Thrane users will notice that there is a separate selection block for US/Canada flex trips under the "Options" block. Send the declaration.

Declaring a FLEX while fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area. To declare a multispecies and/or monkfish FLEX trip while declared into the Eastern Area, perform the steps outlined for declaring a FLEX trip at the dock/mooring, and send the new declaration from sea. Your VMS software will allow you to send the FLEX declaration outside the demarcation line because your new declaration is considered a valid transition from the code you declared before sailing.

d. **"Flipping" the DAS Type.**   When multispecies/monkfish trip limits are exceeded while fishing on a declared Regular or Reserve "B" DAS trip, you must flip your DAS type to an "A" DAS. Your VMS software will allow you to send a 'flip' declaration outside the demarcation line as the new declaration is a valid transition from the code you declared before sailing. In order to flip from a "B" to an "A" DAS while at sea, you would make the same selections on your VMS declaration screen that you made before sailing, except that you would select "A" DAS.   Send the declaration.

e. **Changing from a Multispecies 'A' or 'X" DAS declaration to a Monkfish DAS Declaration.**   Note: If you select "Common pool or sector trip on Mults DAS", your VMS code will show an "A" in the DAS character of the code. However, if you select "Sector trip when not on Mults DAS", your VMS code will show an "X" in the DAS character of the code. If you anticipate exceeding the incidental catch limit for monkfish while on a multispecies trip and want to retain the monkfish caught, you can change your declaration to a monkfish DAS declaration while at sea. However, you must first declare the 'Multispecies with Monkfish Option' before leaving port. For Boatracs and SkyMate users, go to the Multispecies Declaration screen and select the 'Add Monkfish Option (NMS-MNK)' at the top of the screen, complete the remaining selections that describe your intended activity, and send the declaration. Thrane users will select the 'Mults+Monk Opt' button under "Type". The VMS code reported back to you will start with 'NMS-MNK' to indicate that you have declared the 'Multispecies with Monkfish Option'. To preserve your option to change to a Monkfish declaration during your trip, you must fish entirely within the Monkfish NFMA.

While at sea, you have two declaration options:

(1) You can change to a Monkfish DAS declaration if you exceed the monkfish incidental catch limit and want to retain the catch. To change to a monkfish declaration, go to the Monkfish Declaration screen, declare NFMA and all the same selections (except, for any gillnet trips select 'day' gillnet) that you originally declared.

(2) Remain on and end your multispecies trip under the 'NMS-MNK' declaration you sent prior to leaving port. Remember, if you decide to fish in the SFMA at any time during the trip, you forfeit your option to change to a Monkfish declaration.

Note: Your VMS screen provides you with brief instructions for changing to a monkfish declaration while at sea.   **SkyMate users**: The instructions are located on the Multispecies Declaration screen. **Boatracs users**: The instructions are at the top of Macro 19. **Thrane users**: The instructions are located in the upper right corner. For Eastern US/CAN area trips, you may also flex (one time) either before, during or after changing to a Monkfish declaration.

f. **Use of the "DOF" Declaration.** The DOF (or Declare Out of Fishery) declaration is used whenever the vessel's activity will be any activity other than: (1) a limited access scallop trip, (2) a multispecies or monkfish DAS trip, (3) a general category scallop trip, (4) a herring trip or a (5) surfclam/ocean quahog or Maine mahogany quahog trip.   The DOF declaration is also the appropriate declaration for any vessel movement away from the dock/mooring when no fishing activity is intended. Boatracs users should note that the DOF option is located on Monkfish Macro 24. SkyMate and Thrane users will find the DOF selection on the 'Other Declarations' screen.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CROSS THE VMS DEMARCATION LINE?

Crossing the VMS demarcation line starts and ends a trip. The VMS demarcation line generally follows the contour of the eastern seaboard. The coordinates of the demarcation line may be found in the Northeast Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 648.10. The VMS web page provides both the coordinates and a chart of the demarcation line.

Trip Start and End. A trip starts on the first position report sent by your VMS unit that is seaward of the demarcation line. A trip ends on the first position report shoreward of the demarcation line.

Position Reporting. VMS units on scallop-permitted vessels (limited access and general category) are required to send automatic position reports on a half-hourly basis regardless of the vessel's activity. VMS units on all other permitted-vessels (multispecies, monkfish, herring, surfclam/ocean quahog/Maine mahogany quahog) send automatic position reports on an hourly basis regardless of the vessel's activity. For vessels that hold multiple permits, the most restrictive VMS requirement applies.

Important: The **attached guide** is a helpful reference to assist you in determining if your VMS unit is operating normally and sending required position reports. It is your responsibility to ensure that your VMS unit is well-maintained and sending the required position reports. You should periodically check your VMS unit to ensure that it is positioning normally. If the VMS unit stops functioning, you are required to terminate your trip, return to port and have the unit checked/repaired and returned to operational status before the next trip.

NMFS E-Mail Notification of Trip Start and End.

Trip Start. Within approximately 2-3 hours of crossing the VMS demarcation line to start a trip, an automatically-generated courtesy e-mail will be sent to the vessel's VMS unit by NMFS Office of Enforcement in the following standard format:

Example - Trip Start Notification Message

Subject: F/V (name) - Trip Start Notification

From: NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV
To: (vessel's VMS unit e-mail address)

Trip Start: 02/07/2008 09:20
VMS Code: DOF-DOF-XXXXXX
Trip ID: 410525

From NMFS Enforcement: If VMS code above does NOT reflect intended activity, return to port, send correct code, await confirmation (recommended), then re-sail. For questions, call 978-281-9213.

Note: Some VMS users have been confused by this e-mail, thinking that the e-mail is directing them to return to port. If the VMS activity code reported back to you in this e-mail is correct for your intended activity, there is no action required on your part. However, if the code

reported to you is not correct, you must return to a port to change the code to reflect the proper activity.

Trip End. Within approximately 6 hours of crossing the demarcation line to end a trip, an automatically-generated courtesy e-mail will be sent to the vessel's VMS unit by NMFS Office of Enforcement in the following standard format:

<u>Example - Trip End Notification Message</u>

Subject: F/V (name) - Trip End Notification

From: <u>NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV</u>
To: (vessel's VMS unit e-mail address)

Trip End: 02/07/2008 02:30
VMS Code: NMS-MUL-OPAXGX
Trip ID: 410410

From NMFS Enforcement: Trip length was 1.01 days (for days-at-sea trips, this may not be the actual DAS charged against your allowable fishing days). For questions, call 978-281-9213.

Note: If you are authorized to power down your VMS unit when at your dock/mooring, you may not receive this trip end e-mail if your VMS vendor is attempting to send this e-mail to your VMS unit while it is off. You may provide the VMS Team with an alternate e-mail address if you desire to receive these trip start/end e-mails and other e-mails from NMFS via the internet. The delays in delivery of trip start and end e-mails are a necessary feature of the NMFS VMS trip generation system to ensure accurate trip accounting.

Important: You do not need to declare out of the fishery from your VMS unit upon your return to port from a DAS trip. Again, the trip will end automatically on the first position report after crossing the demarcation line.

Why didn't I receive my trip start or end e-mail(s)? NMFS stops its trip generation program temporarily any time that a delay in delivery of VMS data is detected from one of the vendors. This is necessary to prevent problems with the proper generation of trips that could affect trip accounting. Once the trip generator is restarted, any backlog of trip e-mails will be sent to the vessel and the secondary e-mail address. For questions, call the VMS Team.

DAS Charge. The trip end e-mail reports to you the total length of the trip. This is not necessarily the DAS charged for the trip. If the trip is a DAS trip, the trip start/end times reported to you will start and end your DAS clock. The NMFS database then performs the DAS accounting depending on the VMS activity code for that trip. Questions regarding your DAS reports or balance may be directed to the VMS Team. Questions regarding DAS trip charging requirements may be directed to the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

WHAT OTHER VMS FORMS ARE REQUIRED TO BE SENT?

All other required VMS forms may be found on your VMS unit as follows. See instructions for each form below.

1. **Boatracs Users.** Select 'View Status', then 'Create Message' and type in the appropriate macro page number as follows:

Report Form	Macro
Multispecies Catch Report	35
Scallop Catch Report	36
Herring Pre-Landing Notification	37
Scallop Broken Trip Notification	38
Scallop Compensation Trip	39
GOM Cod Trip Limit Exemption	42
LAGC Scallop Pre-Landing Notification	43
Sector Trip Start Hail	44
Sector Trip End Hail	45
Western Georges Bank RGA Notification	46
Southern New England RGA Notification	47

2. **SkyMate Users.** All forms may be found by selecting 'NMFS-VMS', then 'Catch' or 'Trip' and going to the appropriate report page.

3. **Thrane & Thrane Users.** All forms may be found by selecting 'Forms', then 'Reports' and then selecting the appropriate report 'type'.

Multispecies Catch Report.

Common Pool vessels fishing in the US/CA, B-DAS program or a SAP, must send a completed daily report before 9am local each day for the previous day's catch. **Sector vessels** are exempt from daily reporting requirements.

All vessels fishing in more than one BSA, but outside the US/CA, B-DAS Program or a SAP, only need to send one completed catch report for the trip prior to crossing the demarcation line on the return to port.

All vessels fishing in only one BSA, but outside the US/CA, B-DAS Program or a SAP, only need to fill in the VTR Serial Number and send the form.

Note: A catch report is required even if the vessel caught no fish or was in transit. In this case, report all zeroes and send your catch report.

Example: Boatracs Multispecies Catch Report (Macro 35)

```
MULTISPECIES CATCH REPORT V6

VTR SERIAL NUMBER: _____
DATE FISH CAUGHT: MONTH (01-12)__
                 DAY   (01-31)__
STATISTICAL AREA: _____

SPECIES KEPT  GOM  IN-GB OFF-GB SNE/MA
======================================
COD          _____ _____ _____ _____
YELLOWTAIL   _____ _____ _____ _____
POLLOCK      _____ _____ _____ _____
WHITE HAKE   _____ _____ _____ _____
WINTER FLDR_____ _____ _____ _____
WITCH FLDR   _____ _____ _____ _____
HADDOCK      _____ _____ _____ _____
WINDOWPANE   _____ _____ _____ _____
REDFISH      _____ _____ _____ _____
PLAICE       _____ _____ _____ _____
HALIBUT      _____ _____ _____ _____
ALL FISH     _____ _____ _____ _____
NOTE:  FOR 'ALL FISH KEPT', INCLUDE
TOTAL LBS OF ALL GROUNDFISH AND
NON-GROUNDFISH.
RETURN CONFIRMATION REQUESTED -> _

THIS REPORT IS TO BE USED FOR ALL
GROUNDFISH TRIPS, INCLUDING TRIPS INTO
MULTIPLE BROAD STOCK AREAS (BSA), US/
CANADA MANAGEMENT AREA, REGULAR B-DAS
PROGRAM, SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS.

FOR MULTIPLE BSA TRIPS: SUBMIT ONE
TRIP-LEVEL REPORT BEFORE CROSSING THE
VMS DEMARCATION LINE ON RETURN TRIP.
('DATE FISH CAUGHT' AND 'STATISTICAL
AREA' FIELDS ARE NOT REQUIRED) FOR
SINGLE BSA TRIPS: SUBMIT ONLY THE VTR
SERIAL NUMBER AND NO OTHER INFO BEFORE
CROSSING THE VMS DEMARCATIONLINE ON
RETURN TRIP. FOR US/CA, B-DAS AND/OR
SAP TRIPS: SUBMIT DAILY BY 9AM THE DAY
AFTER THE FISH WERE CAUGHT.

IMPORTANT: REPORT SPECIES IN LBS KEPT.
VTR SERIAL NUMBER MUST BE THE SAME AS
REPORTED TO THE DEALER. IF YOU USE
MULTIPLE VTR PAGES THIS TRIP, RECORD
THE SERIAL NUMBER FROM THE FIRST VTR
PAGE USED.
```

Note: Boatracs has instituted a new feature. Once you complete a form, enter a "Y" for 'Yes' or "N" for 'No' in the "Return Confirmation Requested" field, then send the form. If you entered a "Y", you will receive a message confirmation from Boatracs that the message was delivered.

Scallop Catch Report. If you fish in a scallop access area, you must send a completed daily report before 9am local each day for the previous days catch. This report applies to both limited access and LAGC scallop-permitted vessels.

Example: SkyMate Scallop Catch Report

Scallop Catch Report

This report is to be used for trips into a scallop access area. This report must be submitted daily by 9:00 AM the day **AFTER** the fish were caught.

Note: The VTR serial number must be the same number reported to the seafood dealer receiving the landings at the end of the trip. If you use multiple pages of the VTR on the trip, record the serial number from the first VTR page used.

VTR Serial Number (Logbook Page)	0
Scallop Meats Kept	0 (lbs)
Yellowtail Kept	0 (lbs)
Yellowtail Discarded	0 (lbs)

Scallop Broken Trip Notification. For limited access trips only, this form must be sent from the scallop access area when fishing operations are terminated if the vessel is unable to take the full possession limit. This form is necessary to qualify for a compensation trip which allows the vessel to return to the same access area to catch the remaining portion of the scallop possession limit.

Note: In addition to the VMS form, you must also mail or fax a completed scallop broken trip adjustment sheet to NMFS (NERO SFD) in order to receive the compensation trip. Contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for any questions.

Example: Thrane Scallop Broken Trip Notification

Trip Declaration and Catch Reporting System

Trip Declaration [8.0]   Reports [6.0]

Type

Multispecies : Catch	Scallop : Catch	Scallop : Pre-Landing	Scallop : Broken Trip
Scallop : Comp. Trip	Herring : Pre-Landing	Cod: GOM Exemption	Sector : Start Hail
Sector : End Hail	Rstrt. Gear Area Notify		

This report is to be sent from the scallop access area upon termination of fishing operations.
NOTE: You must also mail/fax a Broken Trip Adjustment Sheet to NMFS to receive a compensation trip.

Vessel Captain/Operator Name:

Time of Fishing Termination: H : M

Estimated Landing Date: Month / Day / 2010

Estimated Landing Time: H : H

Estimated Scallop Meats: lbs.

Reason for Termination:

Send Report

Scallop Compensation Trip Notification. For limited access compensation trips, this form must be sent prior to leaving port. Remember to also send the required declaration of your intended trip from the Scallop Declaration screen/macro. On the compensation trip form, record the 7-digit NMFS trip identification code(s) provided on your letter(s) of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator; then send the form. Compensation trips to the same scallop access area may be combined as long as the possession limit is not exceeded.

Example: Boatracs Scallop Compensation Trip Notification (Macro 39)

```
SCALLOP COMPENSATION TRIP FORM V6

IDENTIFICATION CODE(S):
1. _____  2. _____  3. _____
4. _____  5. _____  6. _____
RETURN CONFIRMATION REQUESTED -> _

YOU HAVE DECLARED A SEA SCALLOP ACCESS
AREA COMPENSATION TRIP(S). PLEASE
ENTER THE TRIP IDENTIFICATION CODE(S)
FOUND ON YOUR COMPENSATION LETTER(S)
OF AUTHORIZATION. VESSELS MAY ONLY
COMBINE COMPENSATION TRIPS FOR THE
SAME ACCESS AREA. A VESSEL MAY NOT
EXCEED ITS PERMIT CATEGORY POSSESSION
LIMIT.
```

Herring Pre-Landing Notification. Herring Category A and B vessels are required to send this form when on a declared herring trip at least 6 hours prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line (or 6 hours prior to landing if no fishing occurred seaward of the demarcation line). It is intended to facilitate the monitoring and enforcement of the haddock catch cap.

Example: SkyMate Herring Pre-Landing Notification

Herring Pre-Landing Notification

This report is to be sent by all Herring Category A and B vessels on a declared herring trip at least 6 hours prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on the return trip to port, or 6 hours prior to landing if no fishing occurred seaward of the VMS demarcation line.

Estimated Landing Month:	Select a Month
Estimated Landing Day:	Select a Day
Estimated Landing Hour:	Select an Hour
Estimated Landing Minute:	Select a Minute
Landing Port State:	Select a State
Landing Port City:	

You must select an Estimated Landing Month.

GOM Cod Trip Limit Exemption. When fishing under the multispecies DAS program, this form is sent before leaving port if you intend to fish for cod south of the GOM Regulated Mesh Area (RMA), and you want to comply with the Georges Bank cod possession limits. If you send this form, you may not fish in the GOM RMA at any time during the trip. If declared exclusively into the US/Canada Area only, you are not required to submit this form.

<u>Example: Thrane GOM Cod Trip Limit Exemption</u>

Trip Declaration and Catch Reporting System

Trip Declaration [8.0]	Reports [6.0]

Type

Multispecies : Catch	Scallop : Catch	Scallop : Pre-Landing	Scallop : Broken Trip
Scallop : Comp. Trip	Herring : Pre-Landing	Cod: GOM Exemption	Sector : Start Hail
Sector : End Hail	Rstrt. Gear Area Notify		

Gulf of Maine Cod Trip Limit Exemption

Note: Vessels declaring into the US/Canada Management Area exclusively are not required to submit this form.

Submit this report prior to leaving port if you intend to fish <u>south</u> of the *Gulf of Maine - Regulated Mesh Area (GOM RMA)* <u>and</u> would like to be exempt from the *GOM Cod Trip Limit* and subject to the *Georges Bank (GB) Trip Limit* instead.

If you submit this report you will be subject to the *GB Cod Trip Limit* and cannot fish in the *GOM RMA* for the duration of your trip.

Transiting is allowed provided all gear is properly stowed while within the GOM RMA.

NOTE: You must submit this report <u>before</u> you leave Port.

Send Report

General Category Scallop Pre-Landing Notification. This form is to be sent by all LAGC Scallop IFQ and NGOM-permitted vessels. Submit the form on all declared LAGC scallop trips and all other trips when scallops are kept. The form must be sent at least 6 hours prior to landing and before crossing the VMS demarcation line. However, if the scallop harvest ends less than six hours before landing, then the report is to be sent immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds.

Note: Limited access vessels holding LAGC IFQ or NGOM permits must also submit this form only when fishing on a declared LAGC trip.

16

```
GENERAL CATEGORY SCALLOP V6
PRE-LANDING NOTIFICATON

VESSEL CAPTAIN/OPERATOR'S NAME:
_____
CORRECTION OF A PRIOR REPORT:_ (Y/N)
IF YES, DATE OF PRIOR REPORT:__/__/__
                             (MM/DD/YY)
IF YES, ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED
BELOW, INCLUDING BLANK FIELDS, WILL
REPLACE THE DATA SUBMITTED IN THE
PRIOR REPORT.

VTR SERIAL NUMBER: _____
SCALLOPS RETAINED/LANDED?_ (Y/N)
   IF NO, SUBMIT FORM.
   IF YES, COMPLETE REMAINING BLOCKS
            THEN SUBMIT FORM.

ANY SCALLOPS CAUGHT IN NORTHERN GULF
   OF MAINE (NGOM) AREA?_ (Y/N)
ESTIMATED SCALLOPS ONBOARD
   (CHOOSE ONE) MEATS (LBS):    _____
        OR, BUSHELS IN-SHELL:   _____
ESTIMATED LANDING:
   DATE: __/__/__ (MM/DD/YY)
   HOUR(00-23): __   MINUTE(00-59): __
LANDING PORT STATE:__ (ABBREVIATED)
LANDING PORT CITY:_____
RETURN CONFIRMATION REQUESTED -> _

INSTRUCTIONS:  ALL LAGC IFQ AND
NGOM-PERMITTED VESSELS MUST SEND A
COMPLETED FORM ON (1)ALL DECLARED LAGC
SCALLOP TRIPS AND (2)ALL OTHER TRIPS
WHEN SCALLOPS ARE KEPT.  SEND FORM AT
LEAST 6 HOURS PRIOR TO LANDING, AND
BEFORE CROSSING THE VMS DEMARCATION
LINE.  HOWEVER, IF THE SCALLOP HARVEST
ENDS LESS THAN 6 HOURS BEFORE LANDING,
THEN THE REPORT IS TO BE SENT
IMMEDIATELY UPON LEAVING THE FISHING
GROUNDS.

NOTE:  LIMITED ACCESS SCALLOP VESSELS
HOLDING LAGC IFQ OR NGOM PERMITS MUST
SEND THIS FORM ONLY WHEN FISHING ON A
DECLARED LAGC SCALLOP TRIP.
```
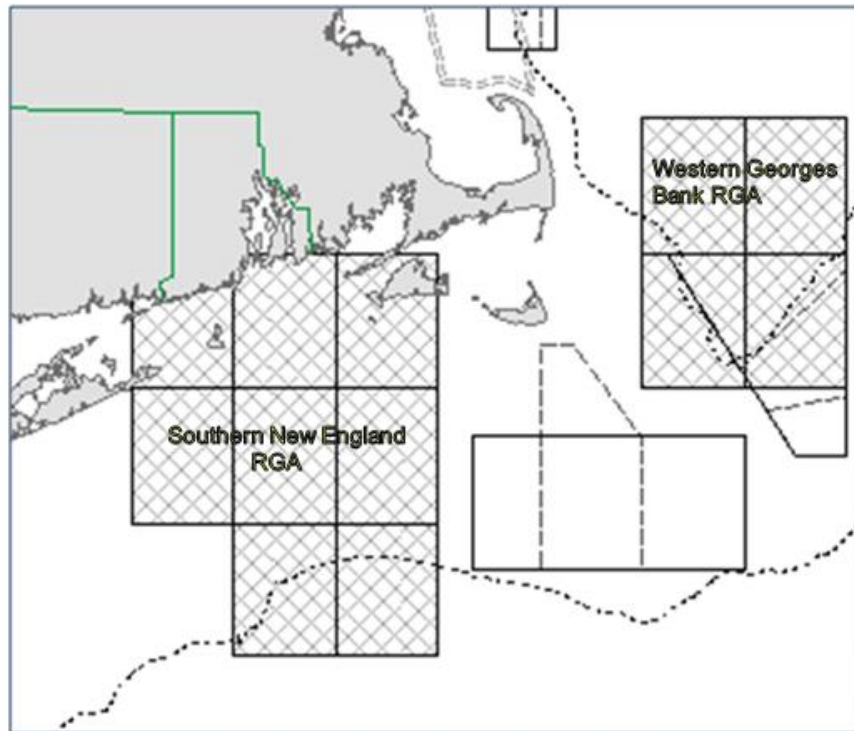
Sector Trip Start and Trip End Hail. A hail must be sent by all sector vessels prior to all groundfish trips. Sector vessels are required to send a start hail before leaving port and an end hail 6 hours before landing (unless fishing ends < 6 hours before landing, then send the form immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds). However, the use of these VMS hail forms is **not** mandatory. Sector vessels should confirm the available methods with their respective sector manager.

Example: SkyMate Sector Trip Start and Trip End Hails

Note: In the SkyMate software, as an interim measure until a long term fix can be done, users will need to fill in an 'estimated offload' date/time for all trips. For the Trip End Hail form, if there is no second offload state/city, enter "NA" in these fields.

Sector Trip Start and Trip End Hail

☐ Sector Trip Start Hail

This report may be used by any sector vessel to satisfy the hail requirements for all groundfish trips.

Vessel Permit Number:	
Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number	
Landing State (abbreviated):	
Landing Port City:	
Estimated Arrival: (Report in: MMDDHHMI)(HH=00-23)	
Estimated Offload: (Provide only for trips <6 hrs or if fishing within 6 hrs of offload port) (Report in: MMDDHHMI)(HH=00-23)	

☐ Sector Trip End Hail

This report may be used by any sector vessel following the submission of a Trip Start Hail. This report must be sent 6 hours before arrival. If fishing ends less than 6 hours before landing, the report must be sent immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds.

Vessel Permit Number:	
Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number	
Landing State (abbreviated):	
Landing Port City:	
Dealer:	
Estimated Arrival: (Report in: MMDDHHMI)(HH=00-23)	
Estimated Offload: (Report in: MMDDHHMI)(HH=00-23)	
Second Offload State	
Second Offload Port City	
Total Groundfish Kept:	(lbs)
Total non-Groundfish Kept:	(lbs)

Restricted Gear Area Notification. These forms are applicable to Common Pool vessels only. The appropriate RGA form must be sent before leaving port on a groundfish DAS trip if any part of the trip will be fished within the RGA. Refer to the NE regulations for authorized gear.

Example: Thrane Restricted Gear Area Notifications

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN RETURNING FROM A FISHING TRIP?

As stated earlier, your trip will end on the first position report shoreward of the VMS demarcation line. The trip will close on the last successfully sent declaration (which will be either the declaration that started your trip or the Flex/Flip/Change declaration, described earlier, that you sent while at sea). You may not send another activity declaration upon crossing the demarcation line with product onboard. There is no need to declare out of the fishery once you cross the demarcation line because VMS ends the trip (and also stops the DAS clock).

HOW ARE MY DAYS-AT-SEA (DAS) CHARGED?

Completed VMS trips are loaded daily into the NMFS AMS database. It is the database that calculates the DAS charge for each trip based on the VMS code for that trip. Your DAS account is then charged the appropriate number of DAS and a running balance is maintained. This is why an accurate declaration prior to sailing (and FLEX'ing or flipping in the fishery) is so important. The DAS charge for your trip will depend upon several factors, including the fishery plan, area fished, DAS category, and gear type. Refer to the appropriate permit holder letters that describe DAS charging in detail.

   Multispecies/Monkfish Trip Charges. On the VMS web page, refer to the section entitled "Days-at-Sea (DAS) Charging Rates by VMS Activity Code Declaration Listing".

WHAT IS "TRIP STITCHING" AND HOW COULD IT AFFECT MY TRIP?

The NMFS OLE monitoring system records all trips taken by vessels with a VMS unit onboard. "Trip Stitching" keeps a trip 'open' (or 'stitches' trip segments together) if a vessel briefly enters and positions inside the VMS demarcation line then exits outside the line to continue its trip. For example, vessels that transit through Vineyard and Nantucket Sound may cross the demarcation line several times on their outbound or inbound trip. If trip stitching was not applied, a single trip may be recorded by NMFS as two or more trips, affecting the trip length and DAS charge.

The rules associated with trip stitching as it applies to DAS trips are:

   (1) Did the base VMS declaration code (first 6 characters, ie, XXX-XXX) remain the same before and after the vessel entered the demarcation line?, and

   (2) Was the vessel inside the demarcation line for less than 4 hours (or, less than 70 minutes for LAGC scallop trips)?

If the answer to both questions above is '**yes**', trip stitching will keep the trip intact so that only one trip is recorded.

An unintended effect of trip stitching may occur when a vessel ends one trip then departs on another trip within 4 hours under the same base VMS code. Two separate trips may be 'stitched' as a single trip. Also, entering back inside the demarcation line for longer than 4 hours, such as transiting the Vineyard/Nantucket Sound area at slow speed, may result a single trip being recorded as two trips.

If you believe that your trip has been erroneously affected by trip stitching, call the VMS Team. The trip will be analyzed and a DAS modification can be made, if appropriate.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHILE IN PORT?

Continuous Position Reporting. Unless you are authorized by regulation to power down your VMS unit while at the dock or mooring, your VMS unit must be 'on' and sending position reports at all times. Unless covered by a 'Letter of Exemption' (described later), vessels inport must report as follows **(if you hold multiple VMS-required permits, the <u>most restrictive</u> situation applies):**

      Herring Category A/B/C vessels. These vessels may turn their VMS units off when in port.

      Limited Access Scallop vessels. These vessels must keep their VMS units on at all times.

      Limited Access General Category Scallop vessels (IFQ, NGOM, Incidental permits). These vessels may turn their VMS units off <u>only</u> after: (1) landing their catch, (2) are tied to a dock or mooring, (3) have declared the power down activity code (which may be found under the Scallop declaration page/macro), and (4) received an acknowledgment of their declaration from their VMS vendor. The power down activity code is "SES-PWD-XXXXXX."

        Important: LAGC vessels that declared a power down code while in port must send a new declaration before their next trip. The vessel may not move from the dock/mooring until the VMS unit is turned back on and a new declaration reflecting the vessel's intended activity is sent. Vessels are not authorized to sail on a power down code under any circumstances.

      Multispecies vessels. These vessels must keep their VMS units on at all times.

        Sector vessels: Sector vessels must have an operational VMS installed when (1) fishing on a sector trip declared into the groundfish fishery, or (2) when targeting monkfish or skate on a groundfish DAS.   After your initial use of the VMS in a given fishing year, the VMS must be used on all trips for the remainder of that fishing year.

        Common pool vessels: Common pool vessels must have an operational VMS installed when (1) taking the first groundfish DAS trip, or (2) when fishing in more than one BSA. After your initial use of the VMS in a given fishing year, the VMS must be used on all trips for the remainder of that fishing year.

      Surfclam/Ocean Quahog vessels. These vessels must keep their VMS units on at all times.

      Maine Mahogany Quahog vessels.   These vessels must keep their VMS units on at all times.

        Important: MMQ vessels are not required to use a VMS until they fish for, land, take, possess or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. From that point forward, they must keep the VMS unit on at all times and make trip declarations for as long as the permit is issued to the vessel.

Letters of Exemption. The Northeast Fisheries Regulations allow vessels holding certain permits to turn off their VMS units when the vessel will be out of the water or during extended periods of no fishing activity. The request must be made in advance of the intended exemption period. You may refer to 50 CFR 648.10(c)(2) for more details about these programs. The 'Letter of Exemption' application form is available on the VMS web page. Fill it out and either fax or mail it to the VMS

Team in advance of the date you intend to turn the VMS unit off. You may not turn your VMS unit off until you receive your Letter of Exemption approval from NMFS.   Contact the VMS Team for any assistance.

All vessels. May request a Letter of Exemption from NMFS if the vessel is expected to be out of the water for more than 72 consecutive hours.

Limited Access Multispecies, Limited Access Scallop and Surfclam/Ocean Quahog (including Maine Mahogany Quahog) vessels. May sign out of the VMS program for a minimum of 30 consecutive days by obtaining a Letter of Exemption from NMFS. The vessel may not engage in ANY fisheries or move from the dock/mooring until the VMS unit is turned back on.

WHO PAYS FOR MESSAGING COSTS?

You pay for the following messages sent from your VMS unit:

-- Required (30 or 60 minute) position reports sent to NMFS
-- Declarations (and the acknowledgments sent back from your vendor)
-- E-mail

NMFS pays for the following messages:

-- Any additional position reports sent from your VMS unit if NMFS temporarily increases your reporting rate
-- E-mail sent by NMFS including courtesy trip start/end e-mails, and 'Fleet-Wide' e-mails

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I REPLACE MY VMS UNIT?

Replacing your unit. Notify the VMS Team within 3 days of installation of the new unit and prior to your next trip. You will need to submit documentation that you have installed an operational, approved VMS unit. Complete a VMS Certification form (available on the VMS web page) and mail or fax it to the VMS Team.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I REMOVE THE VMS UNIT FROM MY VESSEL?

You may not remove the VMS if you intend to continue fishing with the vessel in a VMS-required fishery. If you cancel or transfer your permits, or are selling the vessel and will no longer fish the vessel, contact your VMS vendor. The vendor is responsible for notifying NMFS of any VMS unit deactivations.

HOW DO I CONTACT THE NMFS NORTHEAST VMS TEAM?

By Phone or E-Mail. The VMS Team is located within the Office of Law Enforcement in the NMFS Regional Office, Gloucester, MA. The main number is **(978) 281-9213** and the fax number is **(978) 281-9317.** They are generally available from 7am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. For VMS questions or assistance, contact any member of the VMS Team below:

Bill Semrau   VMS Program Manager   William.Semrau@noaa.gov   (978) 281-9151
Linda Galvin   VMS Specialist/Training/   Linda.Galvin@noaa.gov   (978) 281-9230

	Activations & Registrations/		
	Letters of Exemption		
Carol Bleszinski	Days-at-Sea Balances/Mods	Carol.Bleszinski@noaa.gov	(978) 281-9239
Patti Asaro	Days-at-Sea Balances/	Patti.Asaro@noaa.gov	(978) 281-9126
	IVR Call-In PINs & issues		
Tyler Requejo	Non-Reporting Issues	Tyler.Requejo@noaa.gov	(978) 281-9274

Alternate E-mail Address. You may also send an e-mail at any time to the VMS Team from your VMS unit. Send your e-mail to: NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV.

HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT THE NMFS VMS SUPPORT CENTER?

If you are unable to reach the VMS Team, the National VMS Support Center at Silver Spring, MD, has extended hours of operation and may be able to assist you with general questions about VMS registrations and vessel position reporting. The Support Center is also the primary point of contact for the National VMS Reimbursement program. The Support Center will refer any technical VMS questions to the appropriate vendor, and any regulatory/rule-related questions to the Northeast Region. The Support Center is located at NMFS Headquarters, Office for Law Enforcement, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Hours of operation are 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, Monday through Friday.   The phone number is **(888) 219-9228 (toll-free).**

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR VMS REIMBURSEMENT?

On the VMS web page, refer to the section entitled "VMS Reimbursement Program" for a summary of the program, eligible frameworks/amendments, and a link to the latest Federal Register announcement of May 6, 2008.   Owners/operators who purchased and installed a VMS unit to comply with the requirements of Framework Adjustment 17 to the Scallop FMP, Framework Adjustment 42 to the Multispecies FMP, Framework 1 to the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP, Amendment 11 to the Scallop FMP, or Amendment 16 to the Multispecies FMP may be eligible for reimbursement of their purchase cost up to $3,100 as long as funds are available.   NMFS no longer allows reimbursement for VMS units placed into service prior to July 5, 2006.

Owners/operators who believe they may be eligible should call the VMS Support Center to obtain a 'confirmation code' then submit an application to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC).   Contact the VMS Support Center or refer to the following website: www.psmfc.org.

HOW CAN I CONTACT A NMFS ENFORCEMENT AGENT?

If this is a law enforcement emergency **only**, call the Enforcement Hot Line toll-free on a 24-hour basis at **(800) 853-1964.** Please do not call the Hot Line for a VMS-related equipment or technical issue; rather, contact your respective VMS vendor (see below).

For law enforcement-related questions or concerns that are of a non-emergency nature, contact your local NMFS enforcement office during business hours as follows:

District One (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Northern Massachusetts including Boston). **Call (617) 884-5754.**

District Two (Southern Massachusetts including south of Boston, the Cape and Islands, Rhode

Island and Connecticut). **Call (508) 992-7711.**

District Three (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania).   **Call (732) 280-6490.**

District Four (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia).   **Call (757) 595-2692.**

HOW DO I CONTACT AN APPROVED NORTHEAST VMS VENDOR?

Skymate, Inc:

Address:	4230 Lafayette Center Drive, Suite A, Chantilly, VA 20151
Phone:	1-866-SKYMATE or (703) 961-5800 (e-mail: support@skymate.com)
Call Center:	Operates 24/7 for technical support (call above phone numbers)
Web Address:	www.skymate.com

Boatracs, Inc.

Address:	9155 Brown Deer Rd., San Diego, CA 92121
Phone:	1-800-262-8722 (customer service) (e-mail: operations@boatracs.com)
	1-800-262-8722 (technical support) (e-mail: support@boatracs.com)
Call Center:	Operates 24/7 Network Operations Center for technical support (call the number above)
Web Address:	www.boatracs.com

GMPCS (for Thrane & Thrane VMS units)

Address:	1501 Green Road, Suite A-B, Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Phone:	1-954-973-3100
Call Center:	Operates 24/7 Technical Service Center (call the above number after hours and select the appropriate prompt) (e-mail: support@gmpcs-us.com)
Web Address:	www.gmpcs-us.com

Attachment.

Reference Guide – Determining Positioning Status of a VMS Unit

DETERMINING POSITIONING STATUS OF A VMS UNIT

Question: As an owner or operator of a SkyMate, Boatracs or Thrane & Thrane VMS unit, how do I know if my VMS unit is positioning normally and sending required position reports to NMFS?

Answer:

1. SkyMate VMS.   Check the GPS status by doing the following:

Click on the "**Position**" button (left side of SkyMate software screen). Next, click on the "**Position**" tab. If "**Method**" shows "**GPS**", it means the GPS antenna and receiver are in good working order. The positional data should be valid. If "**Method**" shows "**Poor Doppler**", it means the GPS antenna/ receiver are not functioning well and the position shown on the screen is approximated by the Doppler function built into the communicator.   This approximation is unreliable. If this situation persists, check the GPS connections at this point and call SkyMate (1-866-SKYMATE) for technical support. Note - the LEDs on the SkyMate satellite communicator don't indicate the GPS status.

2. Boatracs VMS.   To make sure the Boatracs unit is positioning there is a light indicator labeled "**No Signal**" to the right of the screen.   If an amber-colored light is illuminated, the unit is <u>not</u> positioning.

An alternate means to check is to press the "**View Status**" button and 'down arrow' once to check the "**M0**" value. The M0 value will have a 'positive' number if 'the unit is positioning (the higher the better, but the average in the Northeast is between 13 and 18).

A final means is to call Boatracs 24-hour Client Care (1-800-262-8722) to verify positioning data, or send an e-mail request to Boatracs (support@boatracs.com) from the VMS unit. E-mail is delivered by a different satellite system; if there is a problem with positioning,
e-mail capability may still be available.

3. Thrane & Thrane VMS. The "**Mobile Status**" window at the top of the screen provides several indicators that the VMS transceiver is functioning properly.

"**Connections**" provides the status of three functions by displaying a green or red light-bar: (1) "**GPS**" – whether the transceiver has acquired a GPS position; (2) "**Ant. Signal**" – whether the transceiver has acquired a satellite signal; and (3) "**PC Connect**" – whether there is a good connection between the message terminal and the transceiver. A green light-bar indicates a good connection. An intermittent red light-bar doesn't necessarily indicate a fault; however, a permanent red light-bar may indicate that the unit is not positioning and the transceiver needs to be serviced.

To verify that the unit has sufficient power, check the LED indicators on the exterior of the interconnect (IC) box. An illuminated green LED indicates that there is sufficient power to the transceiver unit. An illuminated red LED indicates that there is DC power applied to the IC box. When both the green and red LEDs are illuminated, the unit has sufficient power. The LEDs do not indicate whether the message terminal has sufficient power.   You can also call GMPCS customer service at 954-973-3100.